REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

Claims 1-4, 6, 9, 15-17, 19-22 and 26-33 were previously and are currently pending and under consideration.

Claims 1-4, 6, 9, 15-17, 19-22 and 26-33 stand rejected.

No claims are amended herein.

No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

REMARKS AFTER FINAL

Applicant respectfully notes that, according to MPEP 714.13(III), "[a] proposed amendment should be given sufficient consideration to determine whether the claims are in condition for allowance and/or whether the issues on appeal are simplified. ... Any amendment timely filed after a final rejection should be immediately considered to determine whether it places the application in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal."

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-4, 6, 9, 15-17, 19-22, and 26-33 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as anticipated by Horman. This rejection is traversed based on the following. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Horman's Message Not Capable of Being Interacted With By A User Of The Client Computer To Initiate The One Client Configuration Change On The Client Computer

Claim 1 recites "transmitting a status message to a client computer, the status message including an indication that a client configuration change is called for, where

the message is capable of being interacted with by a user of the client computer to initiate the one client configuration change on the client computer". The rejection suggests that column 9, lines 25-30 teaches the transmitting of the status message. The rejection also suggests that column 9, lines 34-50 teaches the interactive component of the status message.

The rejection is traversed because Horman does not teach or suggest an interactive component of the status message. At the top of column 9 (lines 1-3), Horman clearly states that the portion cited in the rejection (i.e., column 9, lines 30-45) is not interactive. More specifically, Horman states that **"steps 2 through 8 occur automatically. No manual intervention is required"** (emphasis added). Column 9, lines 30-45 are the 4th through 8th steps of the 8 steps mentioned, and therefore do not include any interactive element, and the transmitted message (scripts) cannot be "capable of being interacted with by a user of the client computer to initiate the one client configuration change on the client computer".

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that interaction with a message (script) in Horman would not be desirable. Horman allows an administrator to change the configuration of a group of administered servers and propagate that configuration change to all of the servers in the group. As stated by Horman, "[t]he invention provides ... for effecting a change of state to a group of a large number of ... managed entities in a controlled, simplified way [which is] the essence of this invention" (column 1, lines 55-60). Furthermore, Horman is designed such that "all the group administered servers begin at a consistent state, and end at a consistent state" (column 23, lines 56-58). Any modification of Horman in which a user initiated a configuration update on a client (administered server) would defeat the express goal of synchronizing a group of administered servers so that they have a same configuration state. Finally, note also

that Horman is concerned with "affecting [sic] change to the configuration or state of **each** of the many managed entities" (column 1, lines 48-50, emphasis added).

See also column 12, lines 16-21: "Even though the administered servers in the group may execute the batch steps at different times, each administered server of the group will execute the same set of batch steps, and will execute them in the same order. This ensures the consistency of the administered servers that belong to the group". Clearly, it would not make sense for a user to interactively initiate execution of a batch (a configuration change), because full updating is always required.

In sum, the rejection compares claim 1's status message to an update script sent to an administered server in Horman, however Horman's scripts are not interactive. Furthermore, Horman's scripts shouldn't be interactive because they are intended only to blindly implement a configuration state change on the administered servers (see column 2, lines 38-40, and column 11, lines 30-35). Note that Horman describes scripts as being executed in "batches" (column 5, lines 43-48). "Batch" execution is well known in the art of server administration to be non-interactive.

In view of this failure of Horman to disclose all of the features of claim, Applicant respectfully requests a new Office Action that either allows claim 1 or which presents a rejection of claim 1 that meets all of the features of claim 1.

<u>Horman Does Not Automatically Identify A Configuration Change Of The Server Computer</u>

Claim 1 recites "automatically identifying a configuration change of the server computer". The rejection compares claim 1's "server" with the administration control server 14 of Horman (see item 5a on page 2 of the Office Action). However, Horman does not check the administrative control server 11 for configuration changes to the configuration server. Rather, Horman has a database that tracks the state of a group of administered servers. The administrative control server 11 receives a request to

synchronize from an administered server (client), and then uses the administrative control database 12 to check the configuration state of the *administered client*, not the administrative control server 11. Update scripts are sent to the administered server (client) if its configuration state needs to be updated to stay synchronized with its group. In sum, Horman does not identify a configuration change of the administrative control server 11 itself. Furthermore, the state-tracking alterations to data in the administrative control database 12 are *data* changes, not configuration state changes of the server 14 per se; one skilled in the art would not consider a change to the data in a database to be a change in the *configuration of the server* itself. Horman does not disclose or suggest any configuration changes to the administration server 14.

This distinction becomes more apparent when claim 1 as a whole is considered. The first element of claim 1 (identifying the configuration change in the server) is linked to the second element, namely, identifying a client configuration change that is called for, by the configuration change of the server, for the client to use the reconfigured server. The rejection points to column 9, lines 5–25. However, this portion of Horman discusses the administrative control server 11 checking the application version of an administered server 14 (client) for the purpose of synchronization. There is no discussion or suggestion of a change called for on the administered server (client) to use a reconfigured control server. The rejection also cites column 11, line 25 to column 14, line 50 of Horman. However, this portion of Horman only discusses details of the types of batches and how batches are executed. There is no linkage between a configuration change on the administrative control server 11 (server) and the administered server 14 (client).

Withdrawal of the rejection is further respectfully requested.

Rejection Inconsistent

The rejection is also traversed because it is inconsistent. The rejection equates the "server" in claim 1's preamble with the administrative control server 11 in Horman. The rejection also equates the "client" in claim 1's preamble with the administered server 14 of Horman. However, the rejection then equates the "server computer" in the first element of claim 1 ("identifying a configuration change of the server computer") with the administered server 14 of Horman, which has already been equated with the "client" of claim 1.

Withdrawal of the rejection is further respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 103

Claims 16 and 33 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103 as obvious over Horman in view of Glatt. This rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

Horman Does Not Have Server Configuration Changes That Affect Client–Server Interoperability

Claim 33 recites the client receiving from the server a "message containing an indication of a server configuration change that affects the client's interoperation with the server device". The rejection compares this feature to column 11, line 35, to column 14, line 40 of Horman (see the Office Action, page 5, item 16a). As discussed above, this portion of Horman only discloses details of how an update occurs on a client (administered server 14). There is no mention that a change on the server (administrative control server 11) affects the client's interoperation with the server. The cited portion does not discuss any configuration change on the server (administrative control server 11). Furthermore, Horman discusses a synchronization system where the interoperation between the server (11) and client (14) is for the purpose of synchronization. It appears that in Horman configuration state changes are tracked in

the administrative control database 12 ("administrative control database (12) ... records information about the administered server environment ... [t]he information that configures and maintains administered servers is stored in relational tables in the administrative control database (12)", column 6, lines 18-29). A change to configuration/synchronization information in database 12 would not ordinarily be expected to affect interoperability between the server (11) and the client (administered server 14). In sum, there are no *configuration changes* to the server (11) in Horman, and if changes to the database 12 are considered to be configuration changes, then these changes are only data changes and do not affect interoperability between the *server* (11) and the client (administered server 14).

Claim 26 recites "receiving a notification from the server computer that at least one of multiple server configuration settings has been updated, the server configuration settings comprising settings that affect how client computers interoperate with the server computer". As discussed above, Horman does not detect configuration settings changing on the server that affect how clients interoperate therewith.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 26 and 33 is respectfully requested.

Rejection Did Not Address All Features Of Claim 33

Claim 33 recites "a wizard that uses the indication of the server configuration change to automatically identify a client configuration change that is called for by the server configuration change". The rejection did not address this feature. Applicant now must decide whether to appeal the rejection of claim 33, however the rejection of claim 33 cannot be evaluated because the rejection does not address the above mentioned feature.

The rejection does mention Glatt's configuration entry screens shown in Figures 4A and 4B, but the rejection does not explain how Glatt's entry screens identify a client configuration change that is called for by the server configuration change. In fact,

Glatt's entry screens are nothing more than an input mechanism for configuring how devices are to synchronize a user's personal data such as mail data, calendar data, and so on. Nothing in Glatt suggests or indicates actually automatically identifying a client configuration change that is called for by a server configuration change. As stated in Glatt, "User interfrace 150 determines that the PIM information is to be transmitted to the server 200 and the synchronization package is to be downloaded ... and then installed" (paragraph 0030). Similarly, the interface in Figure 4B "sets the synchronization schedule" (paragraph 0033).

As summarized in paragraph 0007, Glatt "streamlines the synchronization **configuration** process by providing a novel web-based user interface that accepts settings from the user and then transfers those settings to both a server and the synchronization application" (emphasis added). In other words, the interface in Glatt is not even used during synchronization, but rather is used to configure how a device is to be setup for later synchronization. This does not require from automatically identifying a client configuration change called for by a server configuration change.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 33 is further respectfully requested.

DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The dependent claims are deemed to be patentable based on their dependence from allowable independent claims. The dependent claims are also independently patentable. For example, claim 20 recites "transmitting a user actuatable control to at least one of the one or more client computers that allows a client user to effect the client configuration change". The cited prior art combination does not discuss or suggest this feature. Withdrawal of the rejection of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.
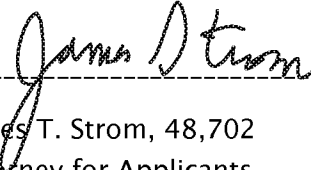
CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art and that all the rejections to the claims should be withdrawn. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is requested. Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the pending claims be allowed, and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes, after this Response, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Application Number: 09/669,819
Attorney Docket Number: 144211.01

If this Response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this Response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0463.

Respectfully submitted,

Microsoft Corporation

Date: ____1 March 2006_____   By:_____

James T. Strom, 48,702
Attorney for Applicants
Direct telephone (425) 706-0362
Microsoft Corporation
One Microsoft Way
Redmond WA 98052-6399

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION
(Under 37 CFR § 1.8(a)) or ELECTRONIC FILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically deposited with the USPTO via EFS-Web on the date shown below:

_____March 1, 2006_____   _____
Date   Signature

                                    Rimma N. Oks
                                    Printed Name

Application Number: 09/669,819
Attorney Docket Number: 144211.01

17/17